

Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

March 25, 1952

Dear Dr. Kikkawa:

Your letter of the 20th has just been received. I am gratified to note the promptness of the airmail service.

I have forwarded your order for "Papers in microbial genetics" to the University Press, and am sure they will forward the books promptly.

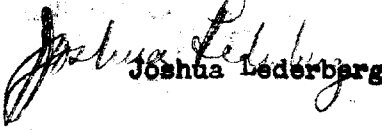
As I mentioned in my previous letter, I do not know what strains Dr. Demerec supplied to you. For this reason, I cannot readily send you "biochemical mutants other than those given by Dr. Demerec". We do not, unfortunately, have a wide range of mutants that would be biochemically interesting, but ~~HE~~ have preferred to develop rather complex multiple mutant stocks for genetic studies. You should have little difficulty in developing your own mutants for specific needs by the application of the penicillin methods. Please let me know what you have, and I will send whatever else we can.

My own interests have been in the direction of the biology of the bacteria rather than the elucidation of biochemical pathways. Perhaps the ~~HE~~ outstanding workers in the application of bacteria to biochemical genetics (aside from Tatum who still mainly prefers Neurospora) are B.D. Davis, at the Tuberculosis Research Lab., 411 E. 69 Street, New York 21, N.Y., and E. A. Adelberg, Department of Bacteriology, University of California, Berkeley 4, Cal.

As to the extension of strain-crosses: may I refer first to my paper in Science, July 20, 1951. You should have no trouble<sup>to</sup> apply that technique to the discovery of new fertile strains. May I mention, however, that we are very much occupied with working out the relationships of the different strains. From over 2000 strains tested, we have found about 40-50 that are interfertile but have still to look more closely at some. The situation might become very confusing (e.g. with respect to nomenclature) if there were a neglect to intercommunication. Would there be any disadvantage to continuing to use the well-worked strain K-12 for biochemical genetic studies? Without minimizing the usefulness of comparative studies, I think that at the present stage, it would be preferable to focus on a relatively small group of initial strains in order that different workers can the more readily compare their ~~work~~ results.

I do gather that you do not have the K-12 strain itself. I shall wait to hear from you before sending this, so that I can make a single shipment. In the meantime, wild type recombinants of the strains that Dr. Demerec presumably did supply to you should behave in every way like the original K-12 parent.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg